

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claim 11. The currently pending claims are listed below.

- 1 1. (Withdrawn) A method of operating a workstation containing a system unit housing a
2 processor and a physically separate display monitor containing a display screen, said display
3 monitor being coupled to said system unit with a display monitor data cable, said method
4 comprising the steps of:
5 disconnecting said display monitor data cable;
6 engaging a latching mechanism to at least one of the set consisting of the system unit, the
7 display monitor, and the display monitor data cable, wherein said latching mechanism prevents re-
8 connection of said display monitor data cable; and
9 thereafter operating said workstation from a remote location.
- 1 2. (Withdrawn) The method of operating a workstation of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 engaging a latching mechanism comprises the steps of:
3 attaching a first latch at a coupling of said display monitor data cable to said system unit,
4 said first latch preventing detachment of said display monitor data cable from said system unit at
5 said coupling; and
6 attaching a second latch at an open end of said display monitor data cable, said second
7 latch preventing attachment of a coupling to said open end of said display monitor data cable.
- 1 3. (Withdrawn) The method of operating a workstation of claim 2, wherein said display
2 monitor data cable comprises first and second segments capable of being connected by a coupling,
3 wherein said disconnecting step comprises disconnecting said first segment from said second
4 segment at said coupling, said first latch being attached at a coupling of said first segment to said
5 system unit, and said second latch being attached to said first segment at said coupling for
6 connecting said first and second segments.

1 4. (Withdrawn) The method of operating a workstation of claim 1, further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 disengaging at least a portion of said latching mechanism;

4 re-connecting said display monitor data cable; and

5 thereafter operating said workstation from the workstation location.

1 5. (Withdrawn) The method of operating a workstation of claim 4, wherein a portion of said
2 latching mechanism remains attached to said workstation while being operated in from a remote
3 location and while being operated from the workstation location.

1 6. (Original) A latching apparatus which latches a data cable coupling in an electronically
2 coupled configuration to a data port of an electronic device, comprising:

3 a first member which is securely attached to said electronic device using at least one first
4 removable fastener;

5 a second member which is securely attached to said data cable coupling using at least one
6 second removable fastener; and

7 a locking mechanism which locks said first and second members together in said
8 electronically coupled configuration;

9 wherein, when said first and second members are locked together in said electronically
10 coupled configuration, said first and second removable fasteners are obscured so as to be non-
11 removable.

1 7. (Original) The latching apparatus of claim 6, wherein:

2 said first member comprises an L-shaped member;

3 said second member comprises an L-shaped member; and

4 when said first and second members are locked together in said electronically coupled
5 configuration, said first and second members are positioned in a nested configuration.

1 8. (Original) The latching apparatus of claim 7, wherein:
2 said first member contains an aperture at a first end thereof;
3 said second member contains an aperture at a first end thereof; and
4 said locking mechanism comprises a padlock which passes through said aperture in said
5 first member and said aperture in said second member.

1 9. (Original) The latching apparatus of claim 6, wherein:
2 said first member contains an aperture at a first end thereof;
3 said second member contains an aperture at a first end thereof and an engagement
4 mechanism at a second end thereof for engaging a second end of said first member when said first
5 and second members are locked together in said electronically coupled configuration; and
6 said locking mechanism comprises a padlock which passes through said aperture in said
7 first member and said aperture in said second member.

1 10. (Original) The latching apparatus of claim 6, wherein said first and second members are
2 removable from said electronic device and data cable by removing said removable fasteners, and
3 wherein said electronic device and data cable may be restored to their original state upon removal
4 of said first and second members.

1 11. (Currently Amended) A latching apparatus for a data cable, ~~comprising~~, comprising:
2 a first member which is securely attached to a coupling at an open end of said data cable
3 using at least one first removable fastener;
4 a second member which, in a locked configuration, obscures at least a portion of said
5 coupling to prevent electrical attachment of a device to said coupling; and
6 a locking mechanism which locks said first and second members together in said locked
7 configuration;
8 wherein, when said first and second members are locked together in said locked
9 configuration, said first removable fastener is obscured so as to be non-removable.

1 12. (Original) The latching apparatus of claim 11, wherein:
2 said first member contains an aperture at a first end thereof;
3 said second member contains an aperture at a first end thereof and an engagement
4 mechanism at a second end thereof for engaging a second end of said first member when said first
5 and second members are locked together in said electronically coupled configuration; and
6 said locking mechanism comprises a padlock which passes through said aperture in said
7 first member and said aperture in said second member.

1 13. (Original) The latching apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first member is removable
2 from said data cable by removing said at least one removable fastener, and wherein said data
3 cable may be restored to its original state upon removal of said first member.

1 14. (Original) A computer system, comprising:

2 an electronic component having a data port;

3 a data cable having a first coupling for forming an electrical connection with said data port;

4 a first member which is securely attached to said electronic component using at least one
5 first removable fastener;

6 a second member which is securely attached to said data cable coupling using at least one
7 second removable fastener; and

8 a locking mechanism which locks said first and second members together in said
9 electronically coupled configuration;

10 wherein, when said first and second members are locked together in said electronically
11 coupled configuration, said first and second removable fasteners are obscured so as to be non-
12 removable.

1 15. (Original) The computer system of claim 14, wherein said electronic component is a
2 system unit, and said data cable communicates with at least one other component of said system.

1 16. (Original) The computer system of claim 14, wherein:

2 said first member comprises an L-shaped member;

3 said second member comprises an L-shaped member; and

4 when said first and second members are locked together in said electronically coupled
5 configuration, said first and second members are positioned in a nested configuration.

1 17. (Original) The computer system of claim 16, wherein:

2 said first member contains an aperture at a first end thereof;

3 said second member contains an aperture at a first end thereof; and

4 said locking mechanism comprises a padlock which passes through said aperture in said
5 first member and said aperture in said second member.

1 18. (Original) The computer system of claim 14, wherein said data cable is securely attached
2 to another object, thereby deterring theft of said electronic component.

1 19. (Original) The computer system of claim 14, wherein said first and second members are
2 removable from said electronic device and data cable by removing said removable fasteners, and
3 wherein said electronic component and data cable may be restored to their original state upon
4 removal of said first and second members.

1 20. (Original) The computer system of claim 14, further comprising:

2 a third member which is securely attached to a second coupling of said data cable at an end
3 of said cable opposite said first coupling using at least one third removable fastener;

4 a fourth member which, in a locked configuration, obscures at least a portion of said
5 second coupling to prevent electrical attachment of a device to said second coupling; and

6 a locking mechanism which locks said third and fourth members together in said locked
7 configuration;

8 wherein, when said third and fourth members are locked together in said locked
9 configuration, said third removable fastener is obscured so as to be non-removable.